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## **Governor's veto stops new judgeship for Kent County**

**LANSING** — Sen. Bill Hardiman's attempt to add an additional judgeship to handle Kent County's growing caseloads has been thwarted by Gov. Granholm's veto.

"I am disappointed by the governor's veto of Senate Bill 788; I sponsored this bill because there is a need for an additional judgeship here in Kent County," said Hardiman, R-Kentwood.

Not having that judgeship means residents will continue to wait longer for their day in court and untimely their justice. Moreover, the additional judgeship was supported by sound independent research.

The independent, nonpartisan Michigan Supreme Court State Court Administrative Office 2003 Judicial Resources Report recommended an additional circuit court judge in the 17th Circuit in Kent County. The report is based on information such as court caseloads and other objective data to determine where judgeships should be added or removed.

The governor's veto message said that other areas of the state also needed judicial resources and that she would not support this Kent County judgeship until those other areas are also helped.

"The governor's veto is unfortunate given the solid case for the judgeship and the need in Kent County," Hardiman said. "I hope she will reconsider her veto and help respond to the needs here in Kent County."

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